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Here are my comments for the CalFed Bay Delta hearing, Visalia, 9 14 99

Conservation is the main way to provide agriculture and other industries with all the water they need; increased storage may also be necessary. I think that if I knew the data mentioned below, I would be better informed as I urge more groundwater storage, and reduced surface water storage. I should have asked for this data in 1994. I could not find it in the EIR/EIS. Perhaps you can supply the missing figures.

QUANTITY OF PRECIPITATION IN CALIFORNIA

Total annual: (p 5.1 5) 200 million acre feet (maf)

Total evaporated and transpired before it could have beneficial use: 129 maf
(Is water that sustains plants that are not harvested, defined as beneficially used? For example, is water that falls in the national parks and sustains the Sequoias and other plants that draw people world wide to the parks, beneficially used?)

Total run off: 71 maf

Portion of total run off devoted to urban and ag uses: (p 5.1 5?) 35.5 maf

Amount of water beneficially used: (your 3 25-26 99 meeting package) 42.5 maf
(Is 35.5 or 42.5 correct?)

GROUNDWATER IN CALIFORNIA

The Sacramento River Area has 40 maf of groundwater (5.8 9) and the safe yield is 2.4 maf. How much of the safe yield is fit for various beneficial uses, including human consumption? What are the corresponding figures for the entire state?

DAMS IN CALIFORNIA

Number of dams: ??

Total capacity of all dams, combined: ??

Amount of water evaporated from all dams: ??

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OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT GROUNDWATER:

Page 5.4 –2 says that groundwater use can be mitigated by importing water from another groundwater basin. Which groundwater basins ever have excess water? How much energy would be needed to import this water?

No state wide ground water program exists, although AB 3030 allows certain agencies to manage groundwater. An example of what this can lead to may be found in Section 36, T29S, R26E. Section 36 is bounded on the west by the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District. Local government is thinking of building a highway through some of Section 36, and even some of the WSD.

If we looked for groundwater as hard in the 21st century as we looked for gold in the 19th century or oil in the 20th century, would we find a significant quantity, not now known to exist?

The Kern Water Bank states its capacity and the amount of water that can be added or taken from the Bank in a year. Can we develop technology so that most other water storage areas can know their capacity and withdrawal rates?

I read that the water bond to be placed on the March, 2000 ballot provides money to develop ground water resources. I applaud this; what do CalFed staff and the Bay-Delta Advisory Council think?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Arthur Unger